

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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53

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /009 W  
----- 098529

R 120935Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 556

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 9447

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CDES (HAMMATT, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: DEATH JUDGMENT

REF: RABAT 4312

1. DEPT. ADVISED US IN LATE JUNE 1976 (STATE 157235) THAT WISCONSIN COURT HAS DECLARED WILLIAM HAMMATT AND HIS TRAVELING PETER ANTLES LEGALLY DEAD. WE ARE PREVENTED FROM DISPOSING OF EFFECTS HERE DUE FACT THAT ETHIOPIAN LAW REQUIRES TWO YEAR WAITING PERIOD FROM TIME OF DISAPPEARANCE BEFORE INDIVIDUALS CAN BE DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD. EFFECTS WHICH WE HOLD AT POST MUST CONSEQUENTLY AWAIT DISPOSITION UNTIL ETHIOPIAN JUDGMENT RENDERED.

2. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT EFFECTS YOU HOLD MAY POSSIBLY NOW BE DISPOSED OF AS THEY ARE NOT UNDER ETHIOPIAN JURISDICTION. WISCONSIN DECISION MAY PROVIDE NECESSARY AUTHORITY YOU REQUIRE. SUGGEST DEPT. RENDER LEGAL OPINION CONCERNING THOSE EFFECTS HELD IN RABAT.

3. FOR DEPT.: AMERICAN DESK OFFICER AT MFA HAS STATED HE HAS RECEIVED POLICE REPORT RE THIS CASE. REPORT, HOWEVER, MERELY STATES THAT NO INFORMATION UNCOVERED IN CASE. REPORT HAS NOT YET BEEN GIVEN TO EMBASSY. LOCAL ATTORNEY HAS NOT YET RESPONDED DESPITE FREQUENT TELEPHONE CALLS FROM EMBASSY. IF FAMILIES IN STATES HAVE NOT HEARD DIRECTLY FROM HIM, THEY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SELECTING A NEW ATTORNEY. REQUEST DEPT CONTACT RELATIVES FOR DECISION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** DEATH JUDGMENT  
**TAGS:** CASC, CDES, (HAMMATT, WILLIAM)  
**To:** SCS  
RABAT  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006